



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line



Providing Amateur Radio news for the Triad

Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY, Editor

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## Field Day, GARA Picnic and Firecracker Hamfest

WOW, what a month it has been! The past thirty (30) days have been full of amateur radio activities, and although, I have not been able to participate in everything, it sure has been fun.

This month's Feed Line will recap three (3) of the



larger activities and also include the hams who passed their Technician exam or upgraded. What an exciting time to be an amateur radio operator!

Whether it was Field Day, 2010, the GARA Picnic at Hagan Stone Park celebrating Weldon Fields 80

years as a licensed ham or the RARS Firecracker Hamfest there were many opportunities for fun and fellowship in our hobby.

If for some reason you were unable to participate in Field Day, 2010, you may want to go ahead and plan for the last full weekend in July, 2011. It is sure to be fun and memorable.

The GARA Picnic was a big success, and there is already talk about making it an annual event but moving it to a cooler time of the year.

I had several people contribute to this month's Feed Line with pictures and articles and I would like to say a BIG "Thank You!" to the following who contributed either photos, articles, both or information to be included in this month's issue: Tom Forrest,

### NEXT MEETING Monday, July 26

The next meeting of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association will be Monday, July 26th, at the Golden Corral Steak House, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave. near Sam's Club. This month's program will be presented by Lee Wimbs, W1MBS. Lee will be speaking about the logging software he has written and developed, LeeNet. Many say this is a very good program. Come and hear about it, and maybe you will agree.



N4GVK; Rick Mainhart, WB3EXR, and his daughter, Melissa (not yet licensed); Terrell Brown, N4TLB; Will Ravenel, AI4VE; Roy Smith, N4BYU and Jesse Lindley, N4BFD.

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## GARA Meeting Minutes

### Regular Meeting was the GARA Picnic on June 28, 2010

There were no minutes, since there was no regular meeting.

## County Wide- 2010 Fall Citizens Academy

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Guilford County Sheriff's Office is offering a Sheriff's Citizen Academy to Guilford County residents who are interested in learning more about law enforcement operations and the Guilford County Sheriff's Office internal processes. The classes will start on August 26, 2010 at 6:30pm. The basic goal of the Sheriff's Citizen Academy is to improve law enforcement/community relations through a formalized educational process.

The Sheriff's Citizen Academy will present a wide range of topical training subjects condensed from the standard training curriculum of sheriff's deputies. By presenting this program, we hope to provide a broad educational experience which will acquaint attending citizens with the mission of sheriff's personnel and the requirements of law to which officers

must conform while carrying out their prescribed duties.

Through attendance and participation in the Sheriff's Citizen Academy:

Citizens will be able to make more informed judgments about the Sheriff's Office and law enforcement activities.

The Sheriff's Office will become more aware of the feelings and concerns of the community, as expressed by attending citizens.

Citizens and Sheriff's representatives will have an opportunity to explore together, some of the traditional suspicions and misconceptions generally harbored by both citizens and sheriff's deputies. Through open discussion of such suspicions and misconceptions, a more harmonious climate for relationships may be established.

The Academy is made up of eighteen (18) classes, meeting once a week, on Thursday evenings, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and four Saturday morning's labs. The classes will be held at the Guilford County Sheriff's Office, located at 400 W. Washington St. Greensboro, NC 27401.

The participants will represent a cross-section of the Guilford County community. The long range benefit of the interaction that will take place during the academy is a better Guilford County for all citizens.

Attached to this letter is: an application, schedule, and listing of the topics that will be covered in the Academy. If you are interested in

participating in the Academy please fill out the proper paperwork and return it to the Sheriff's Office. I do hope you will find the Academy an opportunity to better know your Sheriff's Office

*Return applications no later than August 23, 2010 to:*  
**Guilford County Sheriff's Office**  
400 West Washington St.  
Greensboro, NC 27401  
336-641-5313  
Attention: Cpl. J.C. Fuller

and learn how other citizen's feel. You can contribute to the betterment of the Sheriff's Office and the Guilford County Community by taking part in the

Academy. I hope you will consider it.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Membership in the Guilford County Sheriff's Citizen Academy is open to all interested persons of the age of eighteen (18) or older who meet the following requirements:

- Must not be convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor or have received a prayer for judgment for those two types of crimes.
- Must not have pending charges for a felony or serious misdemeanors.
- Must not currently be a defendant in an active civil action.
- Must not be a current or former member of any criminal gang or organization that advocates the overthrow of any local, state or federal government.
- Must pass a background investigation.
- Must sign a Waiver and Release

You can go to our website [www.guilfordcountysheriff.com](http://www.guilfordcountysheriff.com) <<http://www.guilfordcountysheriff.com>> and check out the schedule and download an application.

Sincerely,  
**BJ Barnes Sheriff**

### The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

President Will Ravenel, AI4VE  
Vice-President Roy Smith, N4BYU  
Treasurer Ernie Wall, NC4EW  
Secretary Greg Spencer, KG4UQV  
Financial Al Allred, K4ZKQ  
Engineering Chairman Jesse Lindley, N4BFD  
Operations Bob Mays, KE4MOW  
Member-at-Large Rob Erikson, KG4OPX  
Member-at-Large Betty Williams, KC2BFN  
*Appointed Positions:*  
Webmaster Tom Forrest, N4GVK  
Newsletter Editor Brian Wilson, KJ4LKY

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## News Briefs That Effect the Ham Community

# First Half of 2010 Sees Upswing in New Amateur Radio Licenses

From ARRL

With more than 18,000 new Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year -- 18,270 to be exact -- 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio. So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses.

In 2009, a total of 30,144 new licenses were granted, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks -- just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000, a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

Comparing 2010 to 2009, the only month that had higher license totals in 2009 was January: 1960 licenses were issued in January 2009, compared with 1726 in January 2010. Beginning in February, 2010 showed higher new license numbers: 2263 in February 2010 versus 2749 in February 2010; 3463 in March 2009 compared with 3734 in March 2010; 3430 in April 2009 compared with 3508 in April 2010; 2717 in May 2009 compared with 3136 in May 2010, and 3011 in June 2009 versus

3417 in June 2010.

As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 1 percent rise over all of 2009. In 2009, there were 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class at the end of June 2010, there were 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced and 121,640 Amateur Extra licensees.

"The ARRL VEC has been

busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "So far in 2010, ARRL VEs have administered 20,929 exam elements at 3600 ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions. The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as ARRL examiners and instructors."

NEW FCC LICENSES ISSUED 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2010					
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Jan	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960	1,726
Feb	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263	2,749
Mar	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463	3,734
Apr	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430	3,508
May	2,283	2,607	2,562	2,717	3,136
Jun	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011	3,417
<b>subtotal</b>	<b>11,388</b>	<b>15,121</b>	<b>15,623</b>	<b>16,844</b>	<b>18,270</b>
Jul	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220	0
Aug	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102	0
Sep	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116	0
Oct	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404	0
Nov	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344	0
Dec	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21,112</b>	<b>26,728</b>	<b>28,066</b>	<b>30,144</b>	<b>18,270</b>

## From the President's Shack

Remember back in January when we were counting the days until warm weather returned? Well we got what we asked for and then some. But never fear, the days are getting shorter and the colder days of low noise 80m band conditions will be here before we know it.

We were lucky for Field Day weekend that the weather was actually pretty pleasant compared to recent weeks. Although the daytime temperature that weekend was in the high 90s, there was very low humidity, and there was a very pleasant breeze that made it pretty bearable. I hope all those who participated enjoyed the event as much as I did. I was having so much fun that I didn't go home until it was over

- a first for me. Here's a picture of the hearty few around dawn on Sunday. We managed to keep all three radios going, but just



barely.

There was a little better turn-out for the GARA picnic at Hagan Stone Park on the Monday after Field Day. The event was planned to celebrate Weldon Field's 80 years as a continuously licensed Ham and was a great success.



The food was good, the company was great, and I believe everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks are due to Bob Mays,

KE4MOW, and his wife, Judy, who planned the event, brought all the food and fixings, and made sure no-one left hungry.

Some of us talked about



making this an annual event, but maybe moving it up to April to beat the heat.

Don't forget the soccer tournament coming up on Labor Day weekend. Also that weekend is the Shelby Hamfest in Dallas, NC. I might try both this year. Until then, see you on the air.

Have fun and 73,  
- Will, AI4VE

### Save the Date Doggett BBQ

October 9th, 2010  
Starts around 5 pm  
Doggetteville at Summerfield

All local amateurs are welcome - All FREE - Sponsored by the Doggett family Contact John Doggett, AJ4DV, [aj4dv@arrl.net](mailto:aj4dv@arrl.net) and let him know how many will attend.

## Congratulations! You Passed!

Every month on the second Saturday, except in March when it is the third Saturday, W4VEC holds a testing session for those who live in the area. This provides an opportunity for individuals to be able to test for their amateur radio license or upgrade. Thanks to Glenda Nicholson, AG4NC, and a group of volunteers, each month there are new or upgraded hams in our area.

In July, we had five (5) individuals who passed their test(s) and earn either their Technician, General or Extra class license.

Next month's testing session will be on August 14th at #3 Centerview Dr, Hickory Building, Greensboro, NC 27407 at 9:00am. While walk-ins are

welcome contacting the lead VE is preferred. Please contact Glenda Nicholson at (336) 674-3810 or by email at [ag4nc@bellsouth.net](mailto:ag4nc@bellsouth.net)



*Scott Brewer - KJ4WKC,  
Passed Technician*



*John Campbell - KJ4WKB,  
Passed Technician*



*James C. Yester - KJ4WKD,  
Passed Technician*



*Olivia M. Hurd - KG4IYI,  
Passed General*



*Ronald R. Leonard -  
KJ4VSL, Passed General*

### For Sale

Approximately 50 foot aluminum tower for sale with interconnecting ten foot sections. Includes pointed mast at top. Does not include anchors for concrete or guide wires. In good condition, made of aluminum with only some slight areas of surface rust. Commercial grade and extremely sturdy. Paid over \$2000 new but will

sell to Ham operator for \$275 or best offer. Please call our media office at 919-760-3110. Will deliver for \$20 in the Triad or Triangle area of NC if paid in advance. Thanks!

Randall Gregg  
RTP-TV / The Raleigh Telegram  
Office: 919-760-3110  
<http://www.raleightelegram.com>





## Field Day 2010 Guilford County ARES

with assistance from the  
Greensboro Amateur Radio Association  
Guilford County, North Carolina



Summerfield Mayor Mark Brown, right, with Wayne Herrick, K4JO



WGHP-Fox8 TV reporter covers Field Day



Public information table with news letters and brochures



J-Pole Antenna build party during Field Day



Field Day was held at Summerfield Community Park, in Summerfield, NC, near Greensboro in Guilford County.



WFMY-News2 TV interviews Steve Marks, N4SCM

Photography By  
Tom Forrest, N4GVK



## Field Day 2010

by Jesse Lindley, N4BFD

Once again, thanks to the help of John Doggett, AJ4DV, Summerfield park was the place to be for the ARRL 2010 Field Day.

Field Day was cosponsored this year by Guilford County ARES and GARA to help with the insurance that Summerfield requires for use of the park.

“CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, this is November Alpha Four Golf Charlie calling CQ Field Day” is something I must have said a thousand times and was once again the cause of a sore throat Monday morning and almost using NA4GC for my own call for up to a week later! Field Day is a great exercise for hams. One learns how to set up a station using emergency power to work as many stations as possible in abnormal and difficult on-air conditions. It also gives you a rare chance to be the on the other side of the pile up for a change!

This year we completed over 1300 QSO's and ran as 3A. At first glance, John, AJ4DV, stated that we have a score of 3996, and worked all North American sections except for SD and ID. Under the main shelter we ran three stations. Will brought his Elecraft K3, and we ended up using it with

a 600ft wire loop and it became the primary CW station. John



and Clark Doggett, KG4HOM, brought two rigs, a Ten-Tec Orion and a Yaesu FT-450 with G5RVs to be used as voice and data stations. Not far away Dub, N4DUB; Mark, KG4STP and Greg, KG4UQV, set up the GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) station with a Yaesu FT-897D on a 900ft long wire as the primary antenna.

The GOTA station was the place to be, as Dub once again brought out the famous air conditioner for the GOTA tent! The temperature reached upwards of 98 degrees on Saturday, making for a trying experience. Even with the hot weather, we had a showing of hams to help out, chew the fat, and enjoy each others company. The stations stayed fully manned the entire time with plenty

of volunteers, including several that showed up at all hours to work CW.

A large trailer-towed, diesel generator was brought out by the Town of Summerfield to be used for the duration of the event. Also the Red Cross, coordinated by Chan, KJ4ADX, and Steve Marks, N4SCM, provided dinner for the group which was much appreciated. With donated copper pipe from Mike, KE4MOY, fittings and tools by Greg Spencer and other supplies by GARA we had a 2m copper J-pole group build on site that several people managed to take advantage of. Also, Tom Hatley, KF4JZD, provided some pre-cut lengths of coax and ladder line to build portable J-pole antennas, as well. TV Channel 8 and 14 showed up to cover the event, and Steve Marks did a great job of putting a face on Field Day and Guilford County ARES for the media.

I would personally like to thank everyone that showed up to help us put up and take down the stations and antennas, it was greatly appreciated and a big help.



## GARA Picnic 2010

**Celebrating Weldon Fields, W4AJT  
80 Years in Amateur Radio**



Weldon Fields, W4AJT



GARA Pres. Will, AI4VE, presents a plaque to Weldon Fields, W4AJT, in honor of 80 continuous years as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator.



Chef & Grill Master Bob Mays, KE4MOW, helps serve cake!



# Feed Line

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)

Will Ravenel, AI4VE and Bob Mays, KE4MOW, do the grilling for the 2010 GARA Picnic. Good food always makes for a GREAT picnic.

Food and fellowship make a for a great picnic at Hagen-Stone Park.



Tables full of Amateur Radio Operators and their families enjoying good food and drink in celebration of Weldon Fields, W4AJT, and his accomplishments.

## The Rowan Amateur Radio Society Firecracker Hamfest 2010

By Rick Mainhart, WB3EXR

The 2010 Firecracker Hamfest was held in Salisbury, NC at the Civic Center, about 4 blocks from I-85 exit 96. The directions given in their announcement were very accurate. The Civic center had plenty of paved parking ... but it was filled by the time we arrived (8:30 AM). We had a nice, 45-minute drive down US-52, and joined I-85 shortly before exiting. Our parking was a grassy lot with a curb cut (they apparently planned ahead) across the driveway from the outdoor flea market.

The outdoor flea market had between 40 and 60 active spaces, there were more spots where some hams

bought flea market space but weren't set up. Nice wide isles, paved parking with a short walk to the Civic Center back door. Inside to the left was their famous food, to

it wasn't too difficult to move around. Lots of activity inside and out, with a wide variety of stuff available. I picked up a new (estate sale) Ham-4 rotor with a Ham-3 controller for a very decent price and only pondered a few seconds (my wallet was already out as I did the math!).

Linda (WA2KDW), and Melissa (not yet licensed) found some interesting crafts and other "non-ham" items to admire, and they found the

perfect embroidery scissors (yes, buy two pair!).

We didn't try the food, but it is worth mentioning. I spoke with Rick

(K4PM) at length about the hamfest, and he and the RARS group are proud of their \$1.50 hot dogs! They offer free coffee, and had about 100 ham



top: Tubes! photo by Melissa; above: Outdoor flea market, photo by Melissa; left: Antique "100% restored" radio, photo by Melissa

the right was the indoor flea market. The indoor flea market was about 50x100' and while it was full,



biscuits donated by a local restaurant (they couldn't sell the biscuits, but happily accepted any donations ... typically in the \$1.00-4.00 range). They refuse to raise prices because that is what brings a lot of people to their hamfest.

I also discussed promoting ham radio with K4PM; it was an



Rick K4PM - Rick and I had a nice chat about what the Rowan Amateur Radio Society was doing with the hamfest, recruiting new hams, and their (few) oddball issues.

easy discussion because he had his W4VEC badge on, and the club had a test session running during the time we were there. They have been making small gains in new hams, and are working with their new hams to help them gain experience operating. They had one or two people in the past couple of years that needed a time-out to discourage their unlicensed

radio operating procedures ... and that personal touch seems to help. They do shut their repeater off from 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM due to no control operator being available, and this has also discouraged improper operations.

One of the most interesting flea market sellers were James Morris and his wife. They had a bit of everything; from Cold War Radiation Survey Meters, to professional video still cameras and high end video camcorders, to lab grade test equipment ... and some very nice musical instruments. They said they'd be at Shelby, so if you can, stop by and say hello.

If you really want a survey meter, they have a warehouse full! You can get them out of the OEM/Government Issue box to a pallet of them. They also offer tested and calibrated units. (cell 443-829-3047). I had a wonderful time talking with them, and in three hours

had sold approximately 4 cases of the survey meters. I don't have a web site, so call them if you really need something



James Morris and his wife. They had the most varied collection of stuff available ... from Cold War radiation survey meters, sony video still camera equipment, high end test equipment and a variety of musical instruments!

to make this Halloween remarkable (walk around the neighborhood in a white tyvec jump suit and operating a survey meter is bound to shake people up!).

I'm going to recommend the Firecracker Hamfest for next year ... it's a quick

45-minute drive from Greensboro or Winston-Salem, and the people are very friendly. Prices were very reasonable ... I'm still trying to figure out how I left without picking up an IC-2KL with auto tuner and power supply (only \$1500.00).



Survey meter in original case (three per case).

# Area Happenings

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30pm, the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association have their regular monthly meeting at the Golden Corral, 4404 Landview Dr, Greensboro, NC 27407, off Wendover Ave, near Sam's Club. Please plan to gather at 6:30pm for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15pm

## CLUB NETS:

**SUNDAYS** – at 7:30pm, the **Technical Forum** on the 145.150;

- at 9pm, the **GARA News and Information Net**. This net features *NewsLine* and is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Roy Smith, N4BYU is always looking for net controls. Contact him if you would like to help.

**TUESDAYS** – at 8:30pm **The Triad SkyWarn Net** meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required.

**TUESDAYS** – at 9pm, the **D-STAR Net** meets on 442.8625 (W4GSO B and Reflector 17C)

**WEDNESDAYS** – at 8:30pm, **The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net** holds their weekly net on the 145.250, W4GG repeater with an 88.5 Hz. tone. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

**THURSDAYS** – at 9pm, The **Guilford County ARES Net** meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz. tone).

## OTHER ACTIVITIES :

**FIRST MONDAY** – The **Guilford County A.R.E.S.** monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7pm.

**THIRD MONDAY** – at 6:15pm **The Guilford Amateur Society** holds their monthly meeting at Tex & Shirley's Restaurant in Friendly Shopping Center. Eat at 6:15pm and the business meeting begins at 7pm.

**THURSDAY** – at 11:15am, Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria, 300 Forum VI Mall at Friendly Shopping Center. Talk-in is on the 145. 150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz. tone.

**EVERY FRIDAY** – at 8pm (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

## The W4VEC Testing Schedule

July, 2010 to Oct. 2010

August 14, 2010

September 11, 2010

October 9, 2010

November 13, 2010

**Location:** #3 Centerview Dr,  
Hickory Building,  
Greensboro, NC 27407

**Time:** 9:00am

**Contact:** Glenda Nicholson

**Phone:** (336) 674-3810

**E-mail:** ag4nc@bellsouth.net

## GARA REPEATERS

145.150 Mhz - offset, 100 Hz. tone

442.8625 Mhz. + offset, Digital D-Star



**Greensboro Amateur Radio Association**

P.O. Box 7054

Greensboro, NC 27417

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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